



## Water Resources Division

# CONSTRUCTION STORM WATER OPERATOR SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL (SESC) INSPECTOR AND COMPREHENSIVE SESC TRAINING

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Where can I find training dates and exam locations for Construction Storm Water Operator/SESC Inspector Training and Comprehensive SESC Training?**

You can find detailed information about the Construction Storm Water Operator/SESC Inspector Training and the Comprehensive SESC Training by going to our soil erosion webpage, at [www.michigan.gov/soilerosion](http://www.michigan.gov/soilerosion), and selecting the first link under the training header titled: "Soil Erosion /Construction Storm Water Operator Training Information." Be sure to scroll down to view information for Comprehensive SESC Training.

### **Who needs Construction Storm Water Operator/Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Inspector Training?**

If you are working on a site with an earth change over 1 acre in size with a point source discharge to waters of the state, the site will need to be under the oversight of a Certified Construction Storm Water Operator. Sites over 5 acres in size with a point source discharge to waters of the state will not be issued a Notice of Coverage until they have a Certified Construction Storm Water Operator for the site. The certified operator can be anyone from the landowner to an excavator. If you are working for a Part 91 Enforcing Agency or Authorized Public Agency (see [Part 91 Agency list](#)), all individuals responsible for making decisions related to soil erosion and sedimentation control are required to have a valid certificate of training. DEQ has determined that the Construction Storm Water Operator Certification is equivalent to inspector level training for Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. The Construction Storm Water Operator Certification is also the prerequisite for Comprehensive Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Training. All employees or contractors for the Part 91 Agency who are responsible for making Soil Erosion related decisions for the Part 91 agency are required to have, at a minimum, inspector level training.

### **Who needs Comprehensive SESC Training?**

If you work for a Part 91 Enforcing Agency or Authorized Public Agency (see [Part 91 Agency list](#)), those individuals responsible for plan review and/or design, permit issuance determinations, and decisions on enforcement actions are required to have valid certificates of Comprehensive SESC Training. At a minimum, at least one individual must have Comprehensive SESC Training. Consultants or others may take Comprehensive SESC Training to further their understanding of the Part 91 plan review and design expectations; however, the ability to make decisions under the certification is contingent upon employment or contracting with a Part 91 agency.

**If I have a valid Construction Storm Water Operator Certification from several years ago, do I need to retake the Construction Storm Water Operator/SESC Inspector Training?**

No, provided you have maintained a valid Construction Storm Water Operator Certification, you do not need to retake the Construction Storm Water Operator/SESC Inspector Training at this time. If you fail to renew your Construction Storm Water Operator Certification you will be required to retake the exam.

**What is the difference between the Self Study Comprehensive SESC Exam and the Comprehensive SESC Training and Exam?**

Self study exams are offered more frequently and do not include training. The Self Study option is designed for individuals who already have a good grasp of materials presented in Chapters 6-8 of the Certified Storm Water Operator and SESC Training manual and who are prepared to study for the exam on their own.

The SESC Comprehensive Training and exam consists of a full day of training on materials covered by the Certified Storm Water Operator and SESC Training Manual with the exam on a following day. Individuals are still expected to study the materials presented in Chapter 6-8, but receive additional training on plan review and design.

**If my Construction Storm Water Operator Certification expires on July 1, of this year, can I take the Comprehensive SESC Training exam in May?**

Yes, as long as you have a valid Construction Storm Water Operator Certification at the time you register and take the Comprehensive SESC exam, you may take Comprehensive SESC Training.

**I have a SESC Inspector certificate and a Construction Storm Water Operator Certification, why do I have two certifications?**

During 2010 and 2011 individuals took one test for inspectors and received two certifications: Soil Erosion Inspector and Construction Storm Water Operator. The Construction Storm Water Operator is now considered the equivalent of Soil Erosion Inspector Training. This allowed DEQ to reduce confusion by having one certification for all construction storm water and soil erosion inspectors. You will not be required or able to renew your SESC inspector and may now use your Construction Storm Water Operator Certification in place of the SESC inspector certification.

**I have the older SESC Comprehensive training and Construction Storm Water Operator Training. I only need inspector training for my job. Which certificate expiration date should I go by?**

If you only need inspector training, then you can go by the Construction Storm Water Operator expiration date.

**I have the older SESC Comprehensive training and it doesn't expire for several years. I don't have Certification as a Construction Storm Water Operator. Does this mean that I am not longer covered as an SESC inspector?**

No, your old SESC comprehensive certification is good for SESC inspector level training until it expires. At that time or before, if you wish, you will be required to first pass the Construction Storm Water Operator exam and then the new Comprehensive exam in order to maintain the level of certification that your old SESC comprehensive exam is currently giving you.

**Can I take the Construction Storm Water Operator/SESC Inspector Training on the same day as the Comprehensive SESC exam?**

Yes, Construction Storm Water Operator/SESC Inspector Training is a prerequisite to the Comprehensive SESC exam. However, if you do not currently have CSWO Certification, you MAY elect to register for and take both the CSWO exam and the Comprehensive exam on the same day. If you choose this option, please note: If you fail the CSW exam, your Comprehensive Exam will not be graded and will be considered an automatic fail. You will be required to pay for both exams prior to receiving the results and before being allowed to retest. If you do not wish to take both exams on the same day, you must complete the CSWO exam and receive certification prior to being allowed to test for Comprehensive Certification. You must inform the DEQ staff person that it is your intent to take both exams on the same day when calling to register for the training and/or exam.

**Can I register for the Construction Storm Water Operator/SESC Inspector Training for one date and the Comprehensive SESC exam on a later date at one time, without first having received my Construction Storm Water Operator Certification?**

Yes, however, if you do not receive Construction Storm Water Operator Certification prior to taking the Comprehensive SESC exam, if it turns out you failed your Construction Storm Water Operator Exam, your Comprehensive Exam will not be graded and will be considered an automatic fail because you must receive certification as a Construction Storm Water Operator as a prerequisite for Comprehensive Training. Before you are allowed to retake either test, you will be required to pay for both failed exams..

**I took the old SESC exam which was one test that covered everything. Do I have to take the Construction Storm Water Operator/SESC inspector Training before I can receive a grade for the Comprehensive SESC exam?**

Yes, if you do not hold a valid Construction Storm Water Operator Certification, you will be required to take and pass the Construction Storm Water Operator/SESC inspector exam prior to being graded on the Comprehensive SESC Training.

**How long do I have to pay for my exams once I have taken them?**

You have 90 days from the date of the exam to pay for them. If payment is not received within 90 days, your test is considered an automatic fail and you will not be allowed to retest until any previous exam fees have been paid.

**Is the Construction Storm Water Operator/SESC Inspector Training a new requirement for SESC Agency Personnel?**

No, SESC training requirements have always had an Inspector component. Based on feedback from individuals required to obtain Certifications in Construction Storm Water and Training in Soil Erosion

and Sedimentation Control, DEQ decided to create an inspection level certification that included Construction Storm Water Operator elements and separate it from the plan review and design elements of Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. This separation was to allow individuals who only inspect sites and who will never design or review a SESC plan to have a single test which covers both SESC inspector training and Certified Storm Water Operator Training.

Individuals who are required to obtain Comprehensive SESC Training because they do SESC plan review and design, must have a good understanding of how the SESC measures function and how they must be maintained, therefore, DEQ decided that the Certified Storm Water Operator/SESC inspector test is a prerequisite for the more advanced Comprehensive Training. Comprehensive SESC Training has always included an inspector requirements portion and a plan review and design portion, it has now just been separated into two parts.

### **Can I take the exam online?**

No, at this time DEQ does not have an online offering of the exams.

### **How long does it take to receive the results of my exam or my certification?**

Exam results or certifications typically take 4-6 weeks to receive from the date payment is received.

### **Do I need to maintain copies of inspection logs?**

Yes, copies of inspection logs must be maintained by the permittee for 3 years.

### **Can the Construction Storm Water Operator and the SESC inspector duties be performed by the same person on a site?**

Yes, if the person performing the inspections is working for a Part 91 Agency, one inspection can count for both Construction Storm Water Operator Requirements and SESC inspector requirements. This situation commonly occurs with Authorized Public Agencies. Private construction sites can utilize the Part 91 Agency Inspector as the Construction Storm Water Operator, if the Part 91 Agency agrees to perform this service. In those cases the SESC inspection would count as a Construction Storm Water inspection and vice versa. \*Please note that inspection frequency for Storm Water Operators can be more frequent than that required of Part 91, SESC inspectors. Storm Water Operator inspections must be conducted at least once weekly and within 24 hours of any precipitation event that result in a discharge of storm water from the site.

### **Can the Part 91 Agency perform Construction Storm Water Operator Inspections for a permittee?**

Yes, if contracted to do so, the Part 91 Agency can perform Construction Storm Water inspection for the permittee. \*Please note that costs associated with such an agreement may be more than normal SESC permit fees because the required inspection frequency for Storm Water Operator Inspections may be greater than the frequency required for Part 91, soil erosion oversight. Storm Water Operator inspections must be conducted at least once weekly and within 24 hours of any precipitation event that result in a discharge of storm water from the site. The Part 91 Agency Inspector would need to make sure to provide copies of all inspections to the landowner.

## **Can I review and approve SESC plans or issue permits for my own projects to meet Part 91 requirements, if I hold a Comprehensive Soil Erosion Training?**

It depends. If you work for a Part 91 Agency, you may review and approve your own soil erosion plans, or issue a permit to your agency. It is important to note, however, that only a person employed by or contracting for a Part 91 Agency can utilize his or her Comprehensive SESC certification in such a manner. Comprehensive SESC certification for individuals who do not work for a Part 91 Agency is informational only.

## **How long are my certifications good for?**

The Construction Storm Water Certifications are valid until July 1, five years from the year in which you take and pass the certification exam. Comprehensive Soil Erosion Certifications of Training issued after January 1, 2012, will also follow the aforementioned renewal schedule with certifications being valid until July 1, five years from the year in which you take and pass the certification exam. Older SESC certificates of training were valid for five years from the date of the test.

## **How do I renew my certifications?**

For Construction Storm Water Operator Certification, you will receive renewal notification by mail in January five years from the year you took and passed the exam or last renewed your certification. Renewals are due by July 1 of the year of expiration of certification. To renew you will need to pay a \$95 renewal fee and return a post card with updated information to the DEQ. The renewal form can be found by going to the soil erosion webpage at [www.michigan.gov/soilerosion](http://www.michigan.gov/soilerosion) and clicking on the [Construction Storm Water Operator Renewal Form Link](#) under the Training Header.

For Comprehensive SESC Training, you will be required to retest to renew your certificate of training.

## **How do I update my certification information with DEQ?**

Contact Bruce Lack at 517-373-4755 or [lackb@michigan.gov](mailto:lackb@michigan.gov)

## **Who do I call if I have additional questions?**

Questions related to who might need training should be directed to the DEQ, Water Resources Division staff found on the staff map:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-sesc-const-sw-staff\\_344830\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-sesc-const-sw-staff_344830_7.pdf).